



‘Building Resilience for Future Success’

Mobile Phone Policy

Date Policy Written/Ratified	September 2026
Date for Review	September 2027
People Involved in writing this policy	Amanda Lacey (Headteacher)
Consultation Process <i>(if needed)</i>	

1. Policy Overview

This policy sets out our expectations regarding young people's mobile phone use during the school day. In line with Department for Education guidance and our commitment to safeguarding and learning, young people will no longer be permitted to use mobile phones during lesson time while on school premises**.

To support this, we are implementing Secure Lockable Phone Pouches for every young person in year 7-11 at the Community Site, a mobile phone locker located in the Post 16 room for Post 16 young people and implementing an expectation of no mobile phones in education rooms at the Hospital Site.

2. Objectives of this Policy

- Eliminate distraction from learning caused by mobile phones
- Promote positive behaviour, engagement, and wellbeing
- Prevent misuse of mobile devices, including bullying, filming, upskirting, and academic dishonesty
- Create a safer school environment and reduce safeguarding risks
- Reinforce a calm and focused school culture through consistent rules

3. Scope

This policy applies to:

- All young people Years 7-11 during the school day (including breaktimes and transition periods). (Community Site)
- Post 16 young people during the school day (except for breaktimes and lunchtime.) (Community Site)
- All devices capable of communication (phones, smartwatches, earbuds, etc.)
- All areas of the school site (the exception being post 16 young people at break time and lunchtime) (Community Site)

4. Secure Lockable Phone Pouches – How the System Works at the Community Site:

- Each young person will be issued a personally assigned signal-blocking pouch
- Pouches will remain in school, and the young person will be reissued their pouch every day
- Upon arrival in school, phones are to be placed inside and locked in the pouch under staff supervision
- The pouch remains with the young person but cannot be opened until the end of the young person's session in school. Alternatively, young people may choose to leave their phone and pouch in a box in their tutor room.
- At the end of the final session, staff will unlock pouches in-class using unlocking stations
- If a young person leaves school early, the pouch will be unlocked by staff

5. Expectations of Young People at the Community Site

- Upon arrival to school, place the phone in the pouch provided
- Keep the pouch and phone secure and undamaged
- Follow all staff instructions regarding pouch use
- Do not bring or use any item intended to bypass the system (e.g. second phone, magnets, smartwatches)
- Do not damage or deface the pouch – this is treated as deliberate misconduct

6. Expectations of Young People at the Hospital Site

- Do not use your mobile phone during education sessions **

7. Expectations of Staff

- Enforce pouch use during the school day, including visual checks and supervised locking (Community Site)
- Conduct spot checks during the day if misuse is suspected (Community Site)
- Unlock pouches at the end of final session (Community Site)
- Report damage, missing pouches or misuse to Amanda lacey, Carli Willis or Lucy Newell (Community Site)
- Keep the unlocking magnets out of reach of young people (Community Site)
- Reinforce to young people that mobile phones are not to be used during education sessions and, where appropriate, staff encourage young people to leave their phone on the ward. (Hospital site)**

8. Expectations of Parents and Carers

- Reinforce the message that phones must not be used during the school day
- Accept that any damage to a pouch will be chargeable (Community Site)
- Use the school reception as the point of contact in emergencies – young people are not contactable during the school day
- At the hospital site, parents/ carers will contact the ward in an emergency

9. Breaches of Policy

All young people are expected to adhere to the policy, if young people are found in breach of the policy parents/carers will be contacted by the school to discuss how the young person can be supported to follow the policy. **

10. Emergencies

In an emergency, parents must contact school reception (Community Site) or ward (Hospital Site). If a young person requires urgent contact with home, staff will facilitate this through appropriate channels.

11. Exceptions

Any required exceptions (e.g. for medical or SEN reasons) must be agreed in writing with the Deputy Head and Headteacher. These will be rare and handled discreetly.

12. Monitoring and Review

This policy will be monitored by the Senior Leadership Team and reviewed annually or in response to updated DfE guidance.

** Whilst the use of mobile phones in education sessions on the hospital site is discouraged, in line with CQC and QNIC guidance, ward staff have made it clear that they are unable to enforce a blanket ban or routinely remove or restrict young people's access to phones on the ward.

For this reason, education staff consistently reinforce the expectation that mobile phones should not be used during education sessions and will ask young people to put their phones away or leave them on the ward. However, it is important to recognise the context in which we are working. All of the young people accessing our service are experiencing significant mental health difficulties and, at times, may be experiencing psychosis and extreme anxiety of being away from home and family contacts. This can lead to increased suspicion or mistrust of staff intentions, meaning that decisions or boundaries around phone use may not always be fully understood or accepted.

Our priority is to maintain positive engagement with education and ensure that young people continue to access learning opportunities. As such, expectations regarding phone use will always be reinforced appropriately and consistently, but in a way that is proportionate, therapeutic, and mindful of individual needs. We seek to balance clear boundaries with the importance of supporting attendance and engagement, so that concerns around phone use do not become a barrier to participation in education.